

Response to Amendment

Amendment received on 07/01/2009 is acknowledged and entered. Claims 4-8 and 10-13 have been previously canceled. Claims 1-3, 9 and 14 are currently pending in the application.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-3, 9 and 14 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 102 and 35 USC § 103 of 04/02/2009 has been withdrawn.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a personal interview with an applicant's representative Brian A. Lemm (Reg. No.: 43,748) on Thursday, November 5, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

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1. (Currently Amended) A method for a vendor to dispense postage over a network to a remote personal computer, the method comprising:

obtaining, by the vendor, a meter license from a postal service, said meter license being associated with a meter account assigned to the vendor, said meter account being maintained at a data center;

receiving, at a computing device via the network, a transaction request for postage from a customer using the remote personal computer, the customer not having a meter license from the postal service, said transaction request including information from the customer, said information corresponding to the transaction requested and payment method;

processing, by the computing device, the requested transaction by requesting the data center to create evidence of postage payment and to account for the created evidence of postage payment in the meter account assigned to the vendor;

effecting payment for the transaction based on the information received from the customer;

receiving, at the computing device, the evidence of postage payment created by the data center; and

sending the evidence of postage payment from the computing device to the remote personal computer for use by the customer;

wherein the customer can obtain postage from the vendor without having a meter license from the postal service.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining an origin of deposit postal code for the requested transaction.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the information from the customer includes a username, password and credit card information whereby a personal account is established for subsequent transactions.

4-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the origin of deposit postal code is included in the information from the customer.

10-13. (Canceled)

14. A system for dispensing postage over the Internet to a remote personal computer for printing, the system comprising:

a data center accessible over the Internet;

means at the data center for maintaining at least one metering account for a vendor, the at least one metering account being associated with a meter license from a postal service obtained by the vendor;

means at the data center for receiving over the Internet a request for postage, the request being initiated by a customer of the vendor using the remote

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personal computer, the customer not having a meter license from the postal service;

means at the data center for generating evidence of postage payment in response to the request for postage; and

means at the data center for accounting for the generated evidence of postage payment in the metering account associated with the license obtained by the vendor,

wherein the customer can obtain evidence of postage payment from the vendor without having a meter license from the postal service.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-3, 9 and 14 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant's arguments presented on pages 3-5 of the response (Remarks) filed on 07/01/2009 are deemed to be persuasive. For the reasons presented by Applicant, claims 1-3, 9 and 14 are deemed to be allowable over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submission should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reason for Allowance".

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Igor Borissov whose telephone number is 571-272-6801. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Hayes can be reached on 571-272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Igor N. Borissov/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3628
11/05/2009